

Did you
know
Blow Hall
was a
gym?

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Dorms complete but campus construction far from over



Ian R. Whiteside

Piecing it all together: Story on page five.

NCAA: Tribe's logo feathers are "hostile and abusive"

Jon San

Staff Writer

On August 3 the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rejected the College's final appeal to keep the Tribe logo unchanged. Describing the problematic feathers as "characteristic of an enemy; warlike; having or showing ill will; unfriendly; antagonistic, not hospitable" and "abusing, mistreating; coarse and insulting; scurrilous, harshly scolding," the NCAA has made a seemingly arbitrary and illogical decision in punishing William and Mary. The College is among the ranks of Yale, Dartmouth, Brown and Princeton in terms of academic progress rate among Division I schools, according to a study that was conducted by the NCAA themselves.

Richard A. Williamson, Chancellor Professor of Law and Coordinator of Legal Affairs for the College, wrote in his response to the decision: "We are condemned for our use of two simple green and gold feathers because those feathers 'continue to perpetuate the [Native American] stereotype'... Ask yourselves this question; if you continue down this road and apply this policy to William and Mary, what will you have accomplished and at what price?"

President Nichol also responded, saying he found the decision to be "disheartening even if...unsurprising."

On June 15, Williamson, on behalf of the College, submitted an appeal to the NCAA that detailed numerous reasons why the two feathers of the Tribe logo should be allowed to remain. First he explained that several years ago, the College, without any pressure from outside groups, decided to change the nickname from the "Indians" to the "Tribe." Additionally, regional tribal leaders indicated that they do not view the "Tribe" nickname to be offensive or abusive.

The use of the "Tribe" moniker was deemed "not abusive or hostile" even by the NCAA, but the two small feathers emerging from behind the logo were somehow construed to be discriminatory and offensive to American Indians. The decision did acknowledge, in accordance with President Gene Nichol, that the "Tribe" nickname brings about a sense of "community" and "togetherness."

FEATHERS

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THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

VA state budget increases College funding Faculty, staff get pay raises, tuition still on the rise

Benjamin Locher

Staff Writer

The College will receive \$206.2 million in state funding for the 2006-2007 school year, almost 10% more than last year. This new revenue stream has allowed the College to offer a 5% pay raise to faculty members and a 4% raise to support staff.

The increase in funding is the result of the 2006-2008 biennial budget that was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor this summer. With the new budget, funding for public colleges across Virginia has reached record highs.

"I think in general, we were very pleased with the budget as it came out of Richmond," Vice-President of Finance Sam Jones said. "This will fund the major priorities of the College."

In addition to the salary jump, the funding increase includes money earmarked for general academic funding, financial aid, research grants and capital projects. It also helps fund the purchase and renovation of the Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital building on Monticello Avenue for use as the new School of Education.

The General Assembly passed the budget on June 28 during a special session, avoiding a government shutdown that appeared to be just days away.

In recent budgets, education funding had either been reduced or barely maintained. This year, the General Assembly was able to increase funding, thanks to a massive

tax hike enacted two years ago, as well as increased tax revenue from a booming economy. The increase is considered one of the few budgetary wins for first-year Democratic Governor Tim Kaine, who continues to face strong opposition from the Republican-led House and Senate.

In April, the College's governing body, the Board of Visitors, approved a 9.2% tuition and fees increase for in-state students, more than twice the annual rate of inflation of 4.5%. For out-of-state students, the Board increased tuition by 8%.

"We had to make assumptions about what the state was going to do," Jones said. "The good news is that our assumptions were pretty close, so we didn't have to change our budget."

Jones said that rising tuition is necessary because the state budget only covers about 40% of the College's programs. For instance, while the state earmarked money to pay for 40% of a 4.3% faculty salary increase, the College is still responsible for the remaining 60% plus the difference needed to bring the pay raise to a full 5.0%.

Senator Tommy Norment, R-Williamsburg, a graduate of the William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law, sits on the Senate Finance Committee and plays an important role in the budget process. Norment agrees that a tuition increase was necessary.

"The cost of providing a quality education increases every year due to the need to pay competitive faculty salaries, increased maintenance costs and similar factors," he said in

Total state funding for W&M

2004-2005:	\$183,048,486
2005-2006:	\$188,782,295
2006-2007:	\$206,177,666
2007-2008:	\$210,063,428

Source: Virginia Department
of Planning and Budget

STATE BUDGET

continued on page two

Accomplished physicist, alum to speak at Convocation

Jacob Hill
Staff Writer

This year William and Mary chose Dr. Warren Buck as its convocation speaker. A talented man in many respects, Dr. Warren Buck is an accomplished physicist, yachtsman, watercolor artist



He was chosen to inspire the freshman class: Dr. Warren Buck has an impressive resume to recommend him.

and civic leader. He has served as Chancellor for the University of Washington, Bothell. Furthermore, during his time at William and Mary, Dr. Warren Buck founded the Black Students Organization.

Dr. Buck received his PhD from the College of William and Mary in high-energy nuclear physics. In his career, he has been chair of the Committee on Education of the American Physical Society and was even featured on Bill Nye the Science Guy. Concerning the local Virginia community, Dr. Warren Buck, as part of a team, began work on the scientific program at Jefferson Labs in Newport News. He was the Founding Director of Nuclear/High Energy Physics Research Center of Excellence and worked as a physics professor at Hampton University, a private school not far from William and Mary. He has served on the College's Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

Central to Dr. Warren Buck's influence at the college is his founding of the Black Students Organization. Created in 1969, the BSO's website states that it "strives to positively promote African American Culture at William and Mary." In terms of civics it mentions that "While serving as a base for African American students, the BSO contributes to the diversity on campus through a wide variety of cultural programs that provide a social and intellectual value for the entire college community." Considering the group's long history of 37 years, Dr. Buck has created a lasting impression at the College.

Opening convocation will be held on Friday, September 1 at 4:30 p.m. in the Wren Courtyard. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Students for Life will host speaker Bobby Schindler, brother of Terri Schiavo

John R. Kennedy
Opinion Editor

The campus pro-life group "Students for Life" will be hosting Bobby Schindler, the brother of the late Terri Schiavo, in the University Center Tidewater A on September 13 at 8 p.m. He plans to speak about his sister's life, tragic death and the issue of euthanasia.

According to the Vice-President of Students for Life, Charlotte Moxley, the event is being organized to "gain an inside look at the battle in our country to protect the lives of those who are in need, and better understand the circumstances surrounding euthanasia." The group believes the event will be well-attended considering the national attention that Terri's case received.

According to Moxley, all of the proceeds from Schindler's speaking engagements go toward The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation, an organization Schindler started to educate the public about life issues.

The Students for Life are a pro-life campus group that seeks to promote pro-life ideals from conception until natural death. Consistent with their position, the group has stated that Schindler's visit expresses the group's opposition to euthanasia.

The event is free and open to the public.

FEATHERS: Despite appeals, Tribe logo has to go or WM faces uphill battle with NCAA

continued from page one

However, the NCAA statement went on to say;

"The committee believes that coupling the term 'Tribe' with imagery that has traditionally been linked to Native Americans, for example eagle feathers and arrowheads, transforms that use from one associated with 'togetherness,' 'shared idealism,' and 'commitment' to a stereotypical reference to Native Americans."

Previously, on May 16, NCAA Vice-President of Governance and Membership, Bernard Franklin, issued the following statement; "The NCAA staff review committee has included the College of William and Mary on the list of colleges and universities subject to restrictions on the use of Native American mascots, names, and imagery at NCAA championships."

So what is the punishment for the

College's "offensive" behavior? Alongside the University of Illinois, the University of North Dakota, Arkansas State University, Indiana University-Pennsylvania, Alcorn State University, and Newberry College, the College will not



be allowed to participate in or host NCAA championship events. The Florida State Seminoles, who feature a dressed up Seminole who spikes a javelin into midfield before each football game

will go unpunished. By censuring the College's feathers while allowing Florida State's Seminoles, the NCAA has displayed an inconsistent policy.

Many students are upset at the NCAA's decision; many feel the NCAA should be focusing its attention elsewhere. In the words of President Nichol, "It would make more sense to study and export William and Mary's approach to athletics than to penalize it."

STATE BUDGET: College gets more funding but remains underfunded compared to peer institutions

continued from page one

an email interview. "Even with the increased tuition, William and Mary remains very affordable compared to its peer institutions."

For Delegate Bill Barlow, D-Smithfield, whose district includes the College, keeping such costs low is a priority.

"We need to do all we can to continue to provide a high quality education," he said, "and we need to do it at a price students can afford."

Barlow is pleased with the funding increase.

"The public college system here in Virginia was beginning to suffer," he said. "It needed a significant increase both in operating and expenses and capital expenditures. I hope we have reversed the recent trend of inadequate support of education."

Virginia21, a non-partisan advocacy group for Virginia college students is also pleased to see an increase in funding, but the group feels that there is still work to be done.

"I think, yes, in general we are happy with the budget," Communications director Laura Baker said. "Virginia ended up making a significant

investment in higher education."

But, Baker also pointed out that Virginia still falls woefully short of its base adequacy funding guideline, the recommendation set by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV). SCHEV is the coordinating committee for the state's public colleges and universities.

Baker said that prior to the new budget, the state would need to fund an additional \$377 million, or about \$1,246 per student, to meet the guideline. With the new budget, that number is cut by almost one-third.

Despite the shortfall, school officials are satisfied with the budget and appreciate the new investment.

"The state recognizes the need for an educated population," Jones said. "[This funding] meets the needs of the Commonwealth, as well as the educational needs of our students."

The complete 2006-2008 biennial budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia is available at <http://leg2.state.va.us/MoneyWeb.NSF/sb2006a>. The William and Mary appropriations are found in section § 1-53 beginning on page 169.

THE VIRGINIA
INFORMER

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College's temporary solution to health insurance only affects incoming students

Stephanie Long

News Editor

After many arguments between students and administration, a temporary solution to William and Mary's health insurance problem has been reached, requiring only incoming students to be covered by the new policy.

In early July, Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler sent out letters to all entering students informing them of the College's new health insurance policy. All incoming students, both graduate and undergraduate, will be required to apply for MEGA life health insurance—the school's new health insurance provider—or obtain a hard waiver by August 15th, proving that they are already covered under a health insurance plan.

Christine Britton, the business manager of the Student Health Center, explained another change to the health insurance policy which addresses student concerns that the coverage will not be accepted everywhere. Britton stated, "We added another PPO Network which will allow the students to choose from two networks now instead of just one." She also confirmed that the second PPO (Participating Provider Option), Beech

Street, is accepted by "about 95% of physicians."

The new health insurance proposal received much criticism from undergraduate and especially graduate students since the topic surfaced in March of this year. However, the new requirement does not apply to continuing students who, as Britton put it, "are 'grandfathered' in and will not need to provide 'proof of coverage.'" This policy was not among the original proposals MEGA life made to the College. Thus the new insurance policy will assuredly be more acceptable to the concerns that the student body initially expressed.

John Miller, president of the Graduate Student Association who had been very involved in securing an acceptable health insurance policy for the College, explained the beauty of the compromise that Sadler arrived at. "It achieves two of the graduate students' and administration's mutual goals," Miller asserted, "in that it lowers premiums for next year and ensures that as many students as possible have health insurance, but it also took into account some current students' concerns that insurance would be mandated for them when they already have/want coverage

through another provider."

The new health insurance policy, while still imperfect, is commendable considering the conflicts inherent with its suggestion in March. While calls for delaying the decision were overlooked by the administration, Sam Sadler has made it very clear that this is not a permanent arrangement.

In an explanation of the new health insurance policy that Sadler sent to those who had initially been involved with the process, he stated that, "The entire student health insurance plan will be put out for re-bid during the coming year." He also explained that for those who accept the plan, the same plan will be offered next year at \$9 less than it was offered for the '05-'06 school year instead of the proposed 12.8% increase.

Before the College goes out to bid, "we will be open to all suggestions from students, administration, and will also have to take into consideration the cost of medical care and the insurance industry rates," Britton explained.

The hope is that in a year's time, the administration will be able to observe the effectiveness of the policy and be better able to determine an adequate health insurance policy for the following year.

SA begins year with shared goals but also a schism

Focus is on flex points at Wawa, Tribe feathers; halving the number of Senators proposed by UGC member

Matthew Sutton

Assistant News Editor

From the commanding re-election of President Ryan Scofield ('07) and Vice President Amanda Norris('07) to the turnover experienced in both the Senate and Undergrad Council, the Student Assembly is poised to begin yet another year.

The 2005-2006 school year brought both controversy and success for both the SA and the William and Mary community. The introduction of the \$21,000 campus recycling program proved to be a major success for the student government. The unprecedented number of sexual assaults on campus and the Decker incident, however, gave momentum to a student-led effort to challenge a campus judicial system which is deeply unpopular among the student body. The highly divisive issues of judicial reform and combating sexual assault appeared to take the SA by surprise and little action was taken on either front.

Town and gown relations also proved to be a major issue for students and their elected representatives. Williamsburg Vice Mayor Clyde Haulman's plan for the city's purchase of rental property in neighborhoods near the College and long standing irritants, like the noise ordinance and three people to a house rule, drew student ire. The failed insurgent candidacy of student David Sievers ('07) to the Williamsburg City Council also contributed to the growing split between the city and the college. Controversy over student voter registration in the city of Williamsburg even led to a lawsuit between students and the city.

The SA split into factions on how to deal with the increasing anti-student trends in Williamsburg. On one end, SA members, mostly concentrated in the Senate, advocated a more assertive stance to protect student rights. President Scofield backed a more conciliatory approach centered on developing relationships with members of the City Council. Senators began to criticize Scofield, as his approach failed to prevent the Haulman plan and also failed to gain voting rights for students in Williamsburg. The tenor of the relationship between the college and town will prove to be a major issue for the SA again this year.

The 2006-2007 school year begins with another controversial edict from

STUDENT ASSEMBLY

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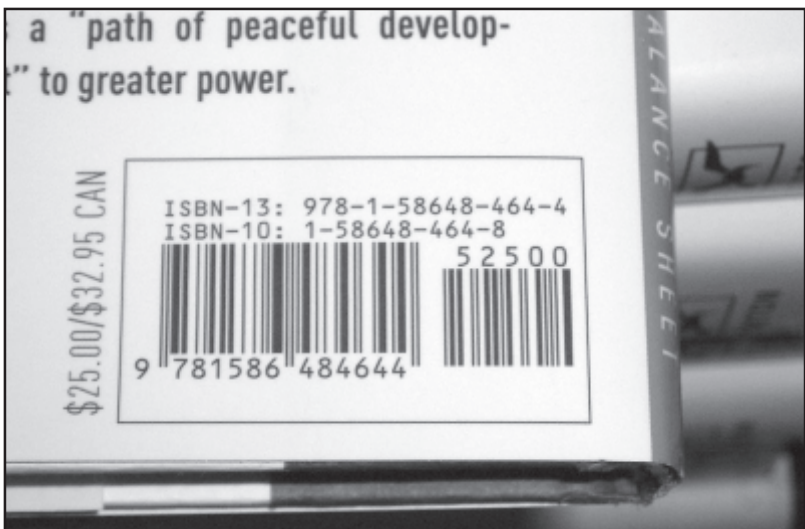
Unlucky 13?

Textbook ISBN numbers go from 10 to 13 digits, causing some confusion

Joe Luppino-Esposito

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

If you wanted to search for your textbooks this year using ISBN numbers, you probably had a tough time. Beginning in January 2007, all book publishers will be changing from the standard 10 digit number to 13 digits.



That bio textbook might be harder to find: Finding the ISBN number in 13 digit form may be more difficult unless both numbers are listed on the book.

"It's because they are running out of numbers," said Steve Babbitt, manager of the College Bookstore by Barnes and Noble. The purpose of the system is to be able to track each individual book

published. If numbers become scarce, duplicates would occur, thus defeating the goal of the system.

Barnes and Noble has already begun to list all of the ISBN numbers in 13 digits on the bookstore website, which was troublesome for students who wanted to search for more competitive prices elsewhere. In most cases, other online booksellers are waiting to convert until the January 1 deadline.

At first glance, it would appear that the only change is the addition of "978" to the front of the numbers. However, it is also the check number, the final digit, that is reassigned under the new system. This makes it impossible to simply guess the new number.

What is required is a converter, which can be found online. "On the converter website, you can enter in 10 digits and

come out with the new 13 digit number and vice versa," said Babbitt. The site, <http://pcn.loc.gov/isbncnvt.html>, is put out by the Library of Congress and is the top source regarding the changeover.

"Students will notice, on a lot of books, that a few publishers have listed both numbers, as far back as last spring," continued Babbitt. He also made it clear that he has done his best to notify the College about the conversion by posting information online through William and Mary, but he understands that the system will certainly take some time getting used to.

ISBN Converter

In order to find out what a book should be under the new 13 digit ISBN system, visit:

<http://pcn.loc.gov/isbncnvt.html>

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While you were home...

News from campus and the ‘Burg

Amanda J. Yasenchak
Editor-in-Chief

U.S. News ranks W&M 6th among public universities and colleges for second year in a row:

On August 18 *U.S. News & World Report* released its annual rankings of the best American colleges and universities. William and Mary once again ranked sixth among all public universities and colleges, and tied again for 31st place with Brandies University in Massachusetts among all public and private universities. Its overall score of 68 remained the same. The overall score is measured by peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni donations and graduation rate performance (the difference between actual and predicted graduation rates). Only one university – Princeton University – received a perfect score of 100 this year. Harvard University

and Yale University rounded out the top three. Duke University fell from ranking fifth last year to eighth in 2006. The only Virginia state school to rank higher than the College this year is the University of Virginia at 24th (down from 23rd last year).

College guarantees admission to qualified Virginia community college graduates:

This summer William and Mary has joined other Virginia universities in guaranteeing admission to Virginia community college graduates. Applicants must have at least a 3.6 grade-point-average and have completed a transfer-oriented associate’s degree. Qualified students must also complete a letter of intent at least a year before transferring after they have completed at least 15 credits in the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). Students will need to complete a total of 45 credits through VCCS between graduation from high school and

transferring to William and Mary. Students who do not meet these and other requirements may still apply for admission to the College but it will not be guaranteed. William and Mary joins many other colleges across Virginia in this guaranteed admission program, including Virginia Commonwealth University, Sweet Briar College, the School of Engineering and the School of Agriculture and Life Science at Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia.

Academic year pushed back to accommodate Jamestown 2007:

The College decided to push back the entire academic year one week to avoid a scheduling conflict with Anniversary Weekend, part of the Jamestown 2007 festivities. Graduation, which typically falls on Mother’s Day weekend, will now be a week later. Anniversary Weekend is one of the highlights of Jamestown 2007, a summer long celebration of the 400th anniversary of

the Jamestown settlement. President Bush and a member of the British royal family are scheduled to appear in Jamestown. The decision was made four years ago but received little attention at the time.

College sues construction company over dormitories:

The College will go to trial in 2007 over a lawsuit filed in March against Armade Hoffer Construction Company. The College claims that the Lettie Pate Whitehead Residences, graduate housing along South Henry Street, were poorly constructed, leading to mold and water damage. The College has spent \$15.6 million since 1992 in repairing the dorms, and is asking for \$15 million in damages. The case will be presented by the law firm of Attorney General Bob McDonnell, and is scheduled for trial in October.

The future of Williamsburg politics

An interview with former city council candidate David Sievers, ‘07

Stephanie Long
News Editor

David Sievers may have been upset by his failure to be elected to the city council on May 2, but his dedication to Williamsburg politics was not. He talked to *The Informer* about what he has in store for the future well as how he believes Williamsburg politics will play out. He also shared some advice for students who are interested in getting involved in Williamsburg politics.

Informer: What was the final outcome of your race last May?

Sievers: I got 713 votes, which was 20.39% of the total vote.

I: Do you plan on running for office again this year? Why or why not?

S: Well, I don’t plan on running again for city council this year because the next city council race, the only thing that I have ever considered running for, is in two years. As for the next city council race, one should never say never, but it is certainly not on top of my list or even something I am actively considering.

I: Were you pleased with how your campaign from this past year was run?

S: Definitely. I must admit that I thought I was going to win, particularly as the election date got closer, and so I felt the disappointment of losing what I thought I might win. Still, although I lost the race I felt that my campaign was a victory in many ways. The terms of the discourse around city issues has noticeably changed in the past year and the fact that I was able to finish .5% behind a lifetime resident/incumbent suggests that

I had a message that resonated with residents. So in both outcome and action, I am proud of every moment of the campaign, which is really what politics should be all about.

I: If you are going to run, what will you do differently? If not, what would you have liked to do differently?

S: If I ran again I can’t say that I would do anything differently. I am the type of person who dwells upon things I might have done but when you give something your all there is nothing else you can really do. There were situational issues I would have changed if I could, such as having consistent application of voter registration rules, but there is nothing I could have done about that.

I: What are the laws regarding students changing their voting registrations to Williamsburg? Has any progress been made on this?

S: That is a great question. As of now we still don’t know for sure what any given student will face in attempting to register in Williamsburg, although we know that since the election students have been registered again. Can students vote - short answer maybe, longer answer, YES!

I: What suggestions would you have for any student who may wish to become involved in Williamsburg politics? How

should they go about it? What should they be aware of?

S: The best way to find out what is going on is simple research. An hour or two and you will be well versed in what the issues at hand are, although probably not their context. Read any document you can find on the city’s website, <http://www.ci.williamsburg.va.us/> read back articles in campus publications, check out the Virginia Gazette when you are at the library. For anything further, feel free to ask me.

The first thing to learn is that nothing is as it seems, which I mean in a broad and deep sense. Politics are still largely run in Williamsburg by and for a small portion of the city, although that’s changing. There is a lot to politics here that is ingrained in things that happened long before you came here (and often before you were born), so in that sense, it takes a lot of work to figure out what is really going on.



Courtesy of David Sievers

He wants you to get involved: Sievers may have lost his bid for city council but he has helped pave the way for other interested students to make a difference.

Still under construction: William and Mary to be a work zone for years to come

Gustavo Elias

Staff Writer

This past year, the College has undergone numerous structural renovations and construction projects to improve the quality of campus life. This semester marks the opening of the brand new dormitory on Jamestown Road. With a colonial architectural design similar to other old campus dormitories, its style blends in as a wonderful addition to the campus. Joe Martinez, Deputy Director of Project Management, stated that while the dorms are finished, “there will still be some minor punch list items to complete which do not affect the students from living in the building.”

From the larger lounges and rooms to the ability to control the A/C and heating, residents can now enjoy a higher luxury of living on campus. Resident Assistants were the first students to move into the dorms and appreciate all that they have to offer. RA Patrick Donaldson (08”) enjoys the new features of the building.” With bigger rooms and more study and social lounges, it is a very functional building for student

life.”

On the other side of campus, the newly renovated Recreational Sports Center should be open for students “no later than September 4th” according to Martinez. Students will no longer be confined to small workout spaces. Now in its final phase of construction, the structure will feature increased space for weight lifting, aerobics and intramural sports. A multipurpose court, juice bar, rock-climbing wall and massage room are just a few of the improvements.

The College is also in the process of building new academic facilities. The “giant



Ian R. Whiteside

Oh no, there's a giant hole on New Campus! While the end result is often worthwhile, the inconvenience and ugliness of the construction process aggravates many students.

hole” in between Rogers and Millington Halls is the site of the new Integrated Science Center (ISC). Here the Biology, Psychology and Chemistry departments will all be housed under one roof. The ISC will contain laboratories, classrooms and offices for the science departments. The construction plans call for the modernization and expansion of the existing space in Rogers and Millington.

Workers are currently in the process of site work and installation of the building’s foundation. According to Martinez, “the construction of the new building (Phase I) is scheduled for completion

in March 2008.” Phase II, the renovation of Rogers Hall, is slated to be finished March 2009.

Another major project, slated to be break ground April 2007, is the new School of Business Administration. This will house both the graduate and undergraduate business departments which are currently in Tyler Hall. The most recent plan is to have the government and economics departments move into Tyler Hall when the new School of Business opens.

Zable Stadium received a face lift in July. According to Martinez, a new type of terrain - an artificial product called Field Turf - replaced the natural grass on Zable. In addition, application of a new surface to the track is currently in progress, with completion scheduled for August 31. More work still needs to be done on the track: Martinez says, “The contractor will have to return in March of 2007 or earlier if weather permits, to apply the track surface to the D zones at the north and south end of the football field.”

A new football facility, the Jimmie Laycock Football Center, is expected to break ground November 2006. This facility will be built upon Montgomery Field, the grass fields behind Zable Stadium. Completion is expected around November 2007.

Special Thanks to Joe Martinez

W&M Aptitude Test:

Do you:

- A) Love to write (aside from term papers, of course)?
- B) Like to find out what’s going on around campus and Williamsburg before the rest of the students?
- C) Get angry and/or roll your eyes when you see typos?
- D) Get jealous when you see someone at a concert or football game who can get so much closer to the action because he has a press pass to take photos?
- E) Like to play Tetris (since layout design really is Tetris with text and pictures instead of blocks)?
- F) Doodle in class when you’re supposed to be taking notes?
- G) Listen to podcasts and think you can do better?

If you answered “YES” to one or more of the above questions, make sure you come to:

**The Virginia Informer
Welcome Meeting
Monday September 4th
Blair 223 8 PM**

We’re looking for:
Writers - Copy Assistants - Photographers
Layout Assistants - Cartoonists
Podcast Producers

Congrats!
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Informer

One year anniversary

Celebrate your first full year of publishing in style and remember to keep challenging the norm.

The Luppino-Esposito Family

Ebirt’s Disciples (a new humor column)

Sneak preview of next spring’s courses

Nick Fitzgerald
& Matthew Sutton

Columnists

Well, it’s that time of year again. No, not the time to go scuba diving in Mudbutt Pond behind the Student Health Center; no, not the time to wait in line for 20 minutes for overcooked roast beef at the Caf, only to be denied food once you arrive at the head of the line; but, rather, the time

to welcome the new class of freshmen to the historic College of William and Mary. The Class of 2010 has broken a number of long-standing records here as one of the smartest, most diverse, and, according to our personal review of MySpace.com, the most physically attractive. Or at least that just might be what the College has told you.

What they haven’t told you are the bold plans of our new president, Gene Nichol. The size of a full-grown grizzly bear with a ravenous appetite for both

fancy French cuisine and the finest moonshine gin, President Nichol is planning to remake the College in his own colossal image, and he intends to start with the Class of 2010. The first stage of the College’s transformation from moldy, colonial backwoods to a 21st century university will begin with the revamping of the entire college curriculum. We here at *The Virginia Informer* just got a hold of the planned course catalogue for the spring semester, and we’ve decided to reprint some of the more unusual classes that will be offered.

GOVT 284: Politics of Student Governments

MWF 4:00-4:50

This course explores both the theory and practice behind the operation of poorly run student governments from the high school to the college level. Special attention will be devoted to studying the psychology of those select, narcissistic few who devote incredibly vast amounts of time to the pursuit of trivial and ultimately meaningless amounts of power, authority, and respect. Various perspectives on student governments will be covered, from the Frankfurt School’s belief that student governments should be run by those least qualified to the Neorealist view that student governments are not tools for real progress, but rather just social constructs instituted to make a very small group of people feel very good about themselves. Consideration will also be given to such problems as voter apathy, obsequious staffers, and, upon participation, the likelihood of developing chronic uptightness.

Prerequisites: PHIL 178: Ethics, Who Needs ‘Em?

3.00 Credit Hours

GRMN 485: Das Boot

TR 9:30-10:50

As a special seminar offered by visiting professor Holger von Weinhoven of Oktoberfest Universität München, this course examines the most significant work of Germanic culture in the last 1,000 years. Students will watch the *Das Boot* DVD, which will be played in Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound, with subtitles offered in German. Held aboard a vintage U-boat docked in the Crim Dell, students will reenact the last voyage of the doomed sub for their final exam. Topics such as depth charge deployment, navigational techniques, and Sauerkraut will be covered. DU WERDEST EINEN KRANKENSCHWESTER BRAUCHEN.

4.00 Credit Hours

WMST (Women’s Studies) 150W: American Women in the 1950s.

Freshman Seminar

TR 11:00-12:20

Students will analyze the role of American women through the social and cultural context of the mid-20th century. In-depth scrutiny will be devoted to the kitchen, laundry room, and various other rooms of the upper-middle-class American home. Digitally remastered episodes of *Leave It to Beaver* will aid class discussion, and special attention will be paid to June Cleaver’s role in creating the gender identity of all true American women. This course satisfies the Freshman Writing Requirement. This course is cross listed with Men’s Studies 204: The Perfect Wife. 4.00 Credit Hours

AMST (American Studies) 203: Classic Nickelodeon

MWF 4:00-4:30

This class will focus on the quintessential Nickelodeon cartoons, game shows, and situational comedies that aired during the 1980s and 1990s. Class discussion will be devoted to how shows such as *Rocko’s Modern Life*, *AAAH!!! Real Monsters*, *The Secret World of Alex Mack*, *Hey Dude!*, and *Wild and Crazy Kids* defined a generation. The final exam will consist of various physical challenges which students must complete, including, but not limited to, navigating the Shrine of the Silver Monkey, running the Double Dare obstacle course against Omar Gooding, and, finally, scaling the Super Aggro Crag located in William & Mary Hall. This class will be co-taught by Dr. Mike O’Malley and Professor Big Pete Wrigley.

In conclusion, we wish to extend to the Class of 2010 our warmest colonial ‘Huzzah.’ We hope that you give these and other courses very serious consideration come registration time. In the meantime, it is also our hope that you continue to read *The Virginia Informer* for the latest updates on this developing story.

Whatdya’ Know?

Did Christopher Wren really design the Wren Building?

Okay – this looks like a stupid question at first, but think about it. I mean, it isn’t called the Sears Tower because it was built by a guy named Sears. In any case, most students you might speak to have believed since their first tour around campus that the college’s oldest building was indeed designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the famous British architect and renaissance man responsible for, among other triumphs, Saint Paul’s Cathedral, the world’s first working barometer, and the tiered wedding cake. What our backwards-walking friends fail to mention, however, is that three hundred years of critical discussion and research among architectural historians has led to the conclusion that no one knows who planned the Wren, but that it was probably not Christopher Wren.

“The idea that Wren designed the building is largely a 20th century tradition,” says Colonial Williamsburg architectural historian George Yetter, who has written a book and many articles on Williamsburg’s buildings. To be sure, the building’s construction was commissioned by the crown and began on August 8th, 1695 under the watchful eye of British “undertaker” (contractor) Thomas Hadley. According to Yetter, the construction of such a building would have involved planning by the Office of the Royal Architect, who, at the time, was Sir Christopher Wren. But Wren, who was busy expanding the Chelsea Hospital in London, probably would’ve delegated the piddly task of designing a college in the colonies to one of his admiring underlings, a theory bolstered by the building’s



Ryan Lintelman
Columnist

undeniable resemblance to Chelsea Hospital itself. Can’t you just see some enterprising young brownnoser holding up his plans and nervously shouting, “Look what I drew, Mr. Wren!”?

Wren was probably the most famous British architect in the years before the Georgian period, and much of what was constructed during his working years is said to conform to the “Wren School” style. His design for Chelsea Hospital, a retirement home for English veterans, was so influential on the field that it directly influenced the construction of the Sunken Gardens as well as the college building, and his designs are still respected and admired today. So it’s easy to understand why this Indian school on the colonial frontier would try to associate itself with the Elvis of English architecture, but really, whose idea was it?

According to Yetter, one of the first histories of Virginia was written in 1705 by Clerk to the Court of Virginia’s Robert Beverly. In his book, he mentions that the college building was “built after plans by Sir Christopher Wren and adapted by the gentlemen of this country”—the first time that this assertion is found in the historical record. So as you can imagine, Bobby starts this rumor, his friends tell their friends, and then they tell theirs – next thing you know, they’ve named the building after the guy.

So next time you see a tour group being shown around ancient campus, feel free to scream “Lies!” as loud and as many times as you can. Do it for Sir Chris.

Send in your questions!

Whatd’ya Know - an irreverent Q & A column with *Informer* reporter Ryan Lintelman. No question is too broad, no quandary too trivial and no subject too taboo for the enlightened community of William and Mary to answer. Send your questions - from the meaning of life to the meaning of the Sunken Gardens - to whatdyaknow@vainformer.com

Dispelling the mysteries of faith: Catholic Campus Ministry

Alex Randy Kyrios

Staff Writer

For many non-Catholics, the religion is shrouded in mystery. Anyone who has read or heard of *The Da Vinci Code* is aware of the many misconceptions surrounding Roman Catholicism. With over a billion adherents worldwide, it is the single largest organized religion today. Until Martin Luther spearheaded the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Church enjoyed unprecedented influence in the Western world and its effects have been extensive.

I spoke with Andrew Starr and Danny Cogut, President and Vice President respectively, of Catholic

Campus Ministry, about their group. CCM is affiliated with St. Bede's Church, the only Roman Catholic parish in Williamsburg. In the spring of 2003, St. Bede's moved into a new building, and their former home, at the corner of Richmond Road and Harrison Avenue, became the exclusive CCM chapel. Cogut summarized the group as an "enthusiastic community that strives to live the Catholic faith through our spirituality, our service, and our fellowship."

Starr highlighted CCM programs beyond the general liturgy, such as social activities, counseling

with priests and campus minister Mary Ellen Pitard. The group hits the ground running at the beginning of the fall semester with a welcome mass on the Sunday during Orientation that includes students'

CCM Meeting Times

Mass - Sunday 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM
Daily Mass - Tuesday and Thursday 5:15 PM
Eucharistic Adoration - Monday 6:00 - 10:00 PM
Confession - Saturday 4:00 PM
Programs are also available for newcomers to the faith.
All meetings and programs are located at the CCM Chapel.



Stephanie Long

Catholics unite: CCM provides both spiritual guidance and fellowship for Catholics on-campus.

families. Ice cream with freshmen at Baskin Robbins and a paid trip to Virginia Beach during the first weekend after classes begin are also well-attended traditions.

Although Catholics are sometimes perceived as separate from Protestant Christian groups, Cogut and Starr stressed the goal of Christian unity and the theme of Catholicism's universal nature. One of CCM's board members focuses on ecumenical outreach, and cooperative programs with other denominations on campus are common.

In the words of Cogut, the members of CCM, true to their faith, value "advocacy issues" and "social justice." They collect money for hunger awareness through Operation Rice Bowl. They also stand against stem cell research and abortion, along with the Catholic Church, by promoting alternatives.

The CCM web site can be accessed at <http://www.wm.edu/so/ccm>

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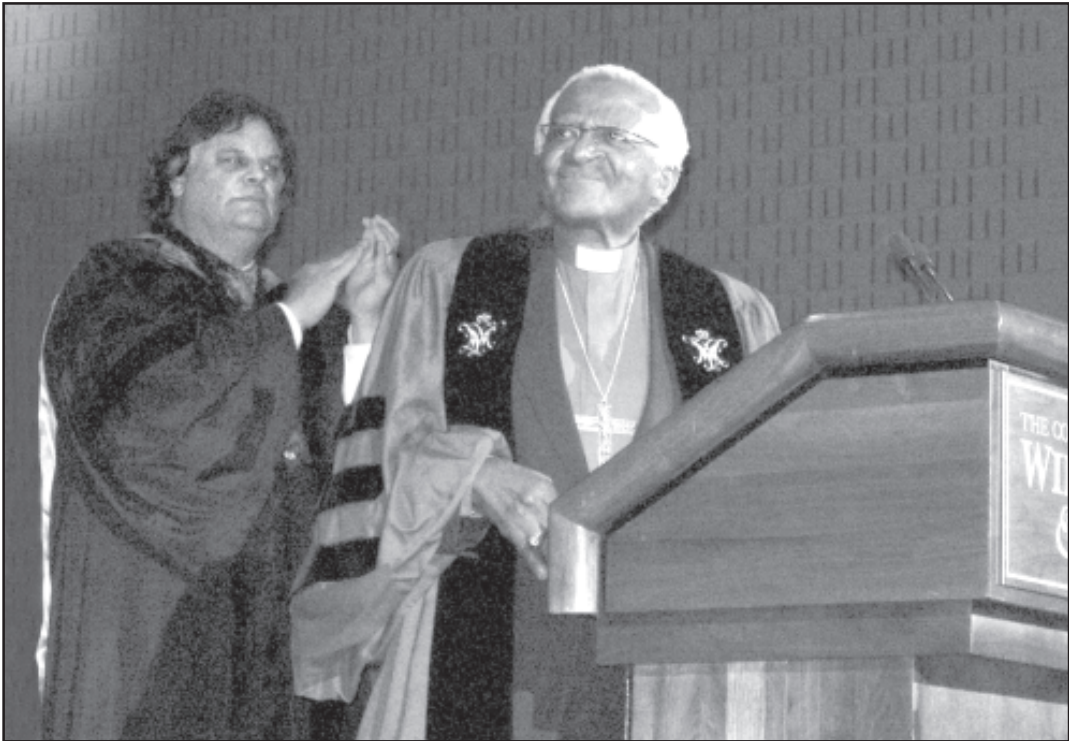
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Becoming “God’s partners”



Joe Luppino-Espinoza

The official 2006 Commencement ceremony was Sunday May 14 in William and Mary Hall. President Gene R. Nichol presided over the ceremony; Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the keynote speaker and all of the hard work of four or more years finally paid off for the hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students to whom degrees were conferred. Tutu said that students need to become “God’s partners,” to help make the world a better place and that God especially needed the help of young people to help eradicate injustice throughout the world. “None of us is an accident, we’re all part of God’s glorious plan for all eternity,” Tutu said.

Want to g The transform

Mandie Constanzer
Subscriptions Editor

At a college as old as William and Mary, building construction and renovation isn’t just necessary, it is a way of life. Today, a new Parking Services building, a larger Rec Center, and a (finally) finished Swem Library are testaments to renovation miracles on campus, but perhaps the most interesting building transformation in College history is that of Blow Memorial Hall.

Opened in 1925, George Preston Blow Hall was not an Admissions building housing dozens of campus offices, but a



Shoot around: game of basketba

Finding Purpose in Bosnia

How a summer abroad changed one writ

Clifton Martin
Staff Writer

I am a major in international relations with a minor in Middle Eastern studies who, like many such students at the College, has the great ambition of a diplomatic career. I try to take advantage of every opportunity to immerse myself in the world of foreign affairs, and these past two summers, I have had such opportunities.

Last year I was working at my dream summer job. I interned at the State Department and was actually spared the conventional grunt work. Well, I guess it really was grunt work, but certainly above answering phones, filing, and bringing the secretaries their coffee and donuts. Plus, I was being paid extremely well, was not too far away from home (depending on traffic), and made some valuable connections in the Foreign Service, all while working at the place where I hope to someday hold a career. I also had the chance to talk directly to Secretary Rice about diplomacy, which, for anyone who knows me well, was like a wet dream become reality. I was certain that I wanted to see the world and experience other cultures while shaping foreign policy, but there was some underlying motive behind all these goals that I could not articulate. It was not until almost a year later while in a taxi on the way to the Sarajevo International Airport that I realized what exactly that motivation was.

At the opening of this past summer I waited tables at a family friend’s restaurant—a step back in the world of foreign affairs to be sure, but I needed a quick-buck job before I left for Bosnia and Herzegovina. That’s right, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This summer I had the unique and fortunate opportunity to travel to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of William and Mary’s Bosnia Project. The project originated in

Bosnia in 1995 where it provided a forum for children who were affected by the Yugoslav Wars to express their feelings about the war in a creative manner while in a safe and loving environment. The purpose was to promote goodwill among the children so that they would not grow up with only the harsh memories of war and its aftershocks. The program was introduced to the College in 1999 through the Yugoslav scholar Mihailo Crnobrnja and seven visiting students from various parts of Bosnia. Dr. Crnobrnja returned to Bosnia with six William and Mary students to lay the groundwork for the present stage of the program. The College has since sent six students to Bosnia each following summer to promote non-violent communication skills to children ages 7-15 while in the context of teaching them English. My own experience with the Bosnia Project was truly life-altering. My story is not an imitation of the Prodigal Son, but I did return home with a newfound sense of self and purpose.

I chose to pursue this program not only for its mission,

but because it would provide me the chance to share another culture. For six weeks I lived with a family in the city of Zenica. I ate their food, watched their shows, listened to their music, walked their city, and spent some quality time with their relatives. I even learned some basic Bosnian and I formed solid friendships within the community.

My daily interactions with the children during class only enhanced the experience. Although I was teaching them English, I was learning so much from their own perspectives, and I must admit that I learned a great deal more about the world than I did in my three months interning at the State Department. I was beginning to understand that it takes much more than the news and a few International Relations courses to grasp the ideology of another culture. This is an obvious point, but I promise that you will never fully realize it until you completely immerse yourself in another culture.

But my most important realization did not come until I began my journey home.



Courtesy of Christine Bobal

A different world: The Bosnia Project exposes participants to new cultures that are surprisingly similar to our own at the same time.



The future begins with children: The goals of the Bosnia Project are to teach the children English and promote non-violent communication.

Go for a swim at Blow Hall?

Evolution of a gymnasium to the admissions office

state-of-the-art gymnasium for men. It was touted as the largest and best-equipped gym in the South, containing showers, locker rooms, a regulation basketball court, a standard sized pool, a

track, trophy rooms, and more. The gymnasium was home to the College men's basketball and gymnastics teams, and hosted events such as Opening Convocation. Even the ROTC claimed a section of the building for some amount of time (documented in a 1951-1952 fiscal request). Renovations over the years included replacement of the acoustic ceiling tiles and wooden gym floor to keep the aging gymnasium in working condition, while women used a separate gym first in Jefferson Hall, and later in Adair Hall.

The gymnasium in Blow Hall was outdated when the Rec Center and Busch Field were completed in 1989, and the Blow Hall pool was overshadowed by the pool in Adair Hall

(which finally became a co-ed gymnasium). At this time, Blow underwent a massive conversion; it was renovated for classroom and office use. All renovation on the building was complete in 1991. The façade that greets students on the Richmond Road side was added in the renovation, which, coupled with a name change to "Blow Memorial Hall," forever changed its identity.

Today, Blow Hall is the home of the Admissions Office on campus, a place most students, new and old, recognize. Although it now bears the Newsweek banner of "America's Hottest Small State School," the building once boasted the newest in fitness

technology as the George Preston Blow Hall "gymnasium for men."

Thank you to Louise Lambert Kale, Executive Director of the Historic Campus for her knowledge, time, and willingness to help in the research for this article.



Courtesy of Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library

Instead of picking up a tour group, students could play a pickup ball at Blow until the 1990s.



Courtesy of Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library

Full house: Blow Hall has since outgrown the days when it could manage to hold Opening Convocation.

er's life

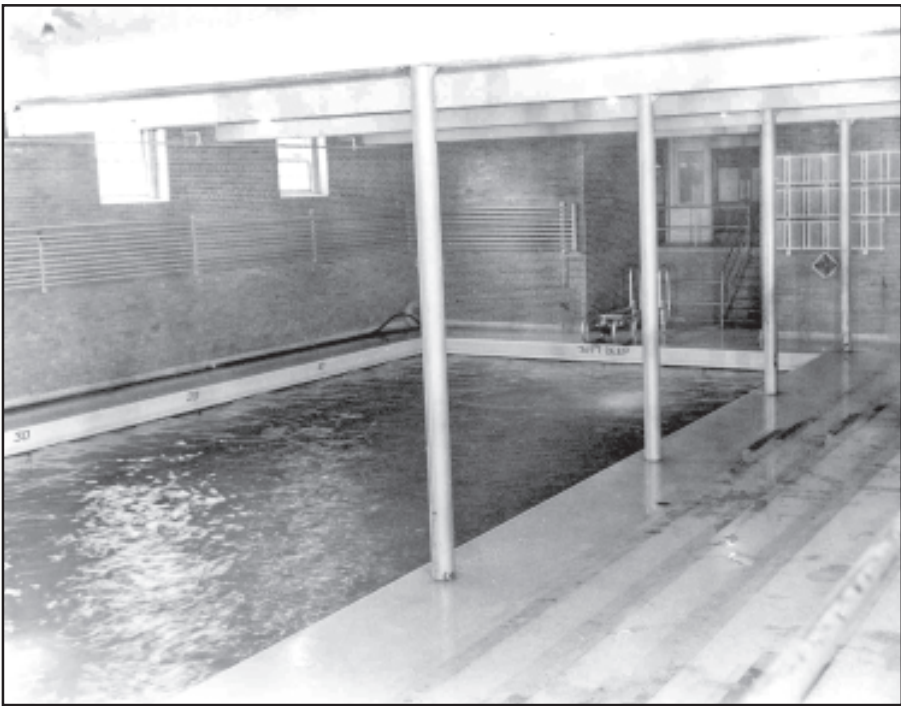
My original flight was delayed a further two days, so I ended up staying with some Bosnian friends in Sarajevo. As a person who believes that there is a reason for everything, I thought this unplanned extension to my trip had some reason behind it. That reason appeared when my taxi driver to the airport said something to me that I will never forget: "Sarajevo is a city with a soul. If you don't feel it, then you will never know its pain, its joy, or its love." I was so struck by this profound statement, yet all I could muster up in reply was an awkwardly American "Wow." In my mind, however, a catharsis of all my ambitions and passions about all things international was taking full force. I kept thinking about what that taxi driver had said. I thought about it at the airport, on all my connecting flights, at home, and even now. When that man claimed that his city had a soul, I recalled all the emotions I felt in the great places I've visited in the world: the great pride and power with every trip into Washington DC, the sense of history and romance all throughout Italy, the thrills and chills of Montreal, and the bittersweet beauty of the bombed structures in the Bosnian countryside. I began to believe that perhaps the entire world had a soul too, and I knew then that all I truly wanted to do in life was to feel the world's pain, joy, and love. Perhaps I knew this all along, but I never truly realized it until now.

For anyone who feels that they are on the pathway to a career in foreign affairs, I encourage you not to just recite world history, read *The Economist*, or study abroad one semester. Participate in a service program with the same depth as the Bosnia Project. It is truly a rewarding experience, and if your head and heart are in the right places, it will assure you all the more that your ambitions for the future are entirely appropriate.



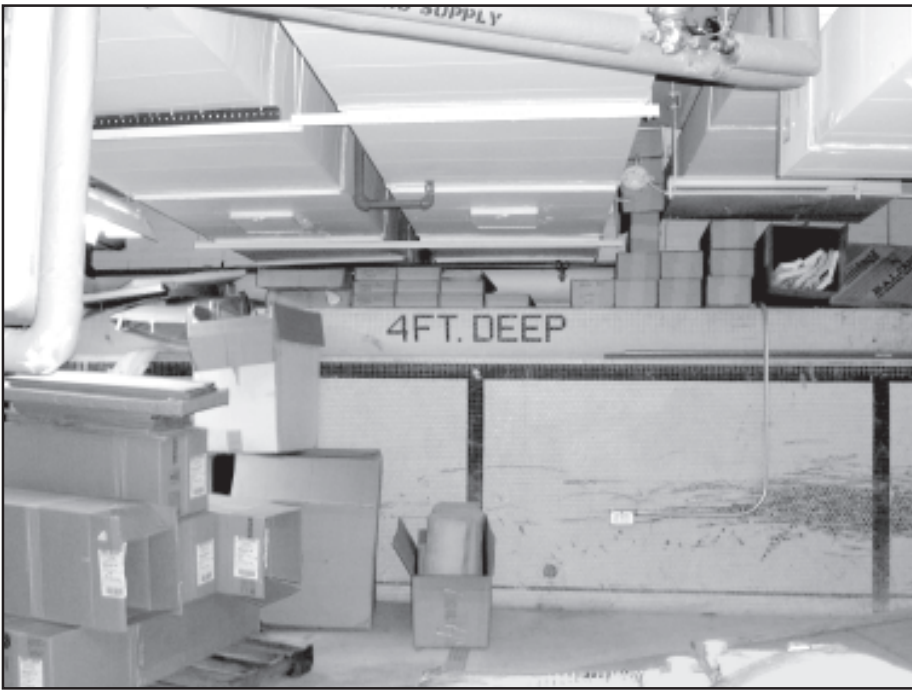
Courtesy of Christine Bobal

Bosnian Project are communication skills.



Courtesy of Special Collections Research Center, Earl Gregg Swem Library

Then and now: The pool that was once at Blow Hall became outdated when the larger one was built in Adair Hall. The facility has been reduced to a storage area in the basement. However, it is clear that what remains of the pool still has left a mark on Blow Hall, with the depth markers clearly visible.



Mandie Constamger

College Avenue Choosing the Right outrages

John Zmirak

The American Spectator

IN 1998, THE PHENOMENON of political correctness on campus was still news. The outrages that journalists, faculty members, and students reported still had the capacity to shock. In fact, people often refused to accept that their alma maters had radically changed in their absence. To make people believe the unbelievable required the systematic chronicling of outrages on campus. In 1998, two organizations, the Collegiate Network (CN) and the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), began doing just this. That year saw the CN's first annual Campus Outrage (or "Polly") Awards and the publication of the first edition of ISI Books' *Choosing the Right College* (of which I am the editor).

Some of the most outrageous, absurd expressions of on-campus intolerance of which we've ever heard happened during the academic year 2005-2006, which is just now mercifully drawing to a close. First prize in the CN's Polly Awards went to my alma mater, Yale University—which admitted as a student a former Taliban official with a 4th grade education. "I'm the luckiest person in the world," gushed Sayed Rahmatullah Hashemi, the former Deputy Foreign Secretary of the Taliban. "I could have ended up in Guantanamo Bay. Instead I ended up at Yale." Yale pursued Hashemi's admission in the name of that sacred cow, diversity, which now appears to extend not only to people of various sexes, creeds, races, ethnicities, and sexual preferences and practices, but also to those who make war upon the United States. (This is the same university that bars ROTC from its main campus.)

The first runner-up was DePaul University, which has essentially declared war on free speech on campus. First, the university suspended—without a hearing and without pay—a veteran adjunct professor for daring to debate students handing out pro-Palestinian literature on campus. Next, the administration branded as "propaganda" a College Republican protest of a speech on campus by Native American pretender Ward Churchill. Finally, college officials shut down an affirmative action bake-sale sponsored by the campus conservative club and charged the club member who organized the event

with harassment. Apparently, free speech is allowed at DePaul only as long as it accords with the political views of the university administration.

Third place was a tie between Stanford University and Holy Cross college, where officials are trying to silence the independent voices of their conservative alternative newspapers. Both the *Stanford Review* and Holy Cross's *Fenwick Review* got in trouble with leftist administrators for criticizing the holy tenets of liberalism. In the case of the *Stanford Review*, it was an investigative piece on the campus Latino group that led to the group's being de-funded by the student government. The *Fenwick Review's* unpardonable sin was its satire of the campus homosexual group's "Gay? Fine by me" campaign. Officials at both schools have harassed the staffs of these publications and have resurrected long-dormant rules about distributing materials on campus in an effort to suppress the dissemination of the papers.

Fourth place in the Polly Awards went to the University of California. Officials of the UC system, representing ten campuses with 200,000 students in the state, don't like diversity—at least, of the intellectual variety. The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools Committee (BOARS) of the UC Faculty Senate is refusing to award credit to high school students in Christian schools who take courses using certain textbooks, primarily those published by A Beka Book and other conservative Christian presses. The California State University system, which is twice as large as UC, also follows UC admission guidelines. In effect, this small group of elites seeks to discriminate in the admissions process of nearly all California schools, proscribing a certain type of education it deems dangerous to the state.

And the crown for Miss Congeniality was shared by two colleges, both of which wish that jingoistic Americans would simply let bygones be bygones and stop talking about the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The University of Iowa chose not to honor the 3,000

Americans killed that tragic day and instead held a "Peacefest" on September 11, 2005. This celebration was sponsored by several radical groups, including the International Socialist Organization, War Resisters League of Iowa City, Iowa Socialist Party, Iowans For Peace, University of Iowa Antiwar Committee, the University of Iowa College Greens, and the Women for Peace Iowa. Meanwhile, Canisius College deems nothing more dangerous to campus safety than the creation of a simple memorial commemorating Americans killed on 9/11. Every year on the anniversary of the attacks, Young America's Foundation's students commemorate the victims by participating in the foundation's 9/11: Never Forget Project. When the College Republicans of Canisius College asked the college administration for permission to place 3,000 small American flags on the quad as part of this effort, a college official nixed the idea, claiming that the display would damage the college's expensive sprinkler system.

UNTIL THE INTERCOLLEGIATE STUDIES INSTITUTE and the Collegiate Network started documenting campus abuses like these, nobody wanted

to believe how bad the situation had become. Before that, most alumni, parents, and donors who cared about liberal arts education still carried in the back of their minds their own memories of college and assumed that despite the turmoil of the late 1960s and early 1970s, things had pretty much carried on at their campuses much the way they remembered. Sure,

they remembered that their English professors were generally on the liberal side, that history teachers in college encouraged them to ask skeptical questions about the civics-class pieties they had learned in high school and

adopt a self-critical attitude about the policies of our government. They might even recall that there was a Marxist or two in the political science department—probably some likable fellow with a beard, three children, and a house in the suburbs, whom they thought of as a misguided idealist. They remembered college administrators as paternalistic and easy to outwit—the kind of people who might shake their heads at a harmless prank and urge the students to hunker down to their books.

Most importantly, they would remember that at nearly every decent liberal arts college in the country there was something called a core curriculum, a set of specific courses or subject matters which every student, regardless of major, had to take. The rationale for these courses was something they took for granted—that American universities required every one of their graduates to have a mastery of a particular set of skills and a set body of knowledge about their culture, their country, and their world. The assumption that there was such a thing as an "educated" man or woman—and that this was different from someone who had simply taken technical training—was deeply engrained in American life before the 1970s, and it didn't cut left or right.

It didn't matter whether administrators were Republicans or Democrats—they still believed that their students should know the Constitution and the history of our country, should read some Shakespeare plays, should take courses in the history of philosophy, become acquainted with the core books of the Bible, learn about the cathedrals of the Middle Ages and the paintings of the Renaissance. None of this had anything to do with whether one preferred Franklin Roosevelt to Robert Taft or favored containing Communism rather than trying to roll it back. Yes, believe it or not, there was a time that college administrators agreed that all students ought to understand the Western culture that they inherited.

In the new book I am working on, *All-American Schools*, which will appear later this year, our team of reporters judge schools by the quality of their faculty and their selectiveness, yes, but also by whether they offer a real curriculum centered on Western culture, or a ragged set of options; whether they focus on teaching rather than research; whether those famous scholars spend any time with students, or fob them off on overworked graduate students; most importantly, whether the classrooms at a given school are open to free intellectual debate, or pervaded by an unspoken, unexamined orthodoxy guarded by an intolerant regime that punishes dissent.

John Zmirak is editor of *Choosing the Right College* and the forthcoming *All-American Schools*.

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Shelbi Wilson

Staff Writer

Best Fast Food

The best fast food in the ‘Burg is Wawa, commonly called ‘The Wa.’ Located directly across the street from Blow Hall, Wawa has everything a college student could ask for, from freshly made sandwiches, salads, and fresh fruit to junk food, coffee, and the everyday necessities, such as milk and medicine. Their prices are reasonable for the typical money conscious college student and its proximity to campus is more than just a convenience. Wawa takes the regular forms of payment, but also accepts W&M Express, which is a plus. The best part about Wawa is that it is open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Wawa is always a good choice no matter the time.

Best Low Cost Sit-Down

La Tolteca is the best low cost sit-down restaurant in town. This Mexican restaurant has two locations in Williamsburg (Richmond Road and Second Street), assuring hungry students that they can find a quick meal regardless of which side of town they may find themselves. Menu items include favorites such as tacos, burritos, chimichangas, enchiladas and fajitas, just to name a few. The Richmond Road location has a buffet, for those individuals who always have a hard time deciding what to order. Most selections are inexpensive, allowing enough money left over to make a stop at Sno-to-Go on your way back to campus.

Best Fancy Meal

For the best fancy meal in Williamsburg, go to the Fat Canary on DoG Street. This restaurant is next door to The Cheese Shop, an affordable sandwich shop beloved by many students. The Fat Canary is a great option for special occasions, like when your parents come to visit. They have varied selections including chicken, beef, seafood, and salads, as well as appetizers, desserts, and daily specials. The menu changes frequently, so there is always something new. The service is always excellent and the restaurant has a great atmosphere. The only downside to the Fat Canary is that it is small and stays very busy year round – reservations are a necessity. Remember the Fat Canary the next time your parents are in town or you are looking for the perfect place to take a special someone.

Best Ethnic/International

Without a doubt, the best ethnic/international food is Nawab Indian Cuisine. Located in the same shopping center as Big Lots on Monticello Avenue, Nawab is popular with students because of their moderately priced lunch buffet during the week. Buffet items typically include dishes from their main menu, as well as salad and naan, for \$6.95. Their main menu has a wide variety of selections including anything from chicken, lamb, seafood, and vegetables, and is available for either lunch or dinner. Desserts there are also great; a personal favorite of mine is mango kulfi, which is Indian ice cream with mangoes. If you are looking for something different and delicious, try Nawab..



Mandie Constanzer

To each his own: Juxtaposing Wawa (above) and The Fat Canary (below) may seem odd, but both won in Shelbi Wilson’s review.



Mandie Constanzer

Spinning a different kind of yarn in Colonial Williamsburg

Historic area to host second annual Storytelling Festival

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor-in-Chief

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation is hosting its second annual Storytelling Festival on September 15th through the 17th. This year’s theme is “Spinning Stories/Spinning Time: A Weekend of Stories Old and New.”

The eight storytellers are nationally acclaimed and come from a variety of American traditions. They include Diane Ferlatte, who uses singing and American Sign Language in her stories; Bill Harley, a singer-songwriter and children’s book author; and Baba Jamal Koram, who weaves African and African-American tales and lore with contemporary humor and storytelling techniques.

The Storytelling weekend begins at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 15th at Bassett Hall, off of Francis Street in the historic district. At that time, there will be a sampler program to preview what all eight performers have to offer. The Friday evening program begins at 7 p.m.

There will be ongoing performances throughout the day on Saturday, September 16th beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will also be special programs featuring family stories from 6-7:30 p.m. and ghost stories from 8:30 – 10 p.m.

The festival continues through Sunday, September

17th, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students may purchase tickets at a ten percent discount for select programs or day-long passes. Visit www.history.org for more information.



Ian R. Whiteside

Hear ye, hear ye: Colonial Williamsburg will present the art of storytelling in mid September.

Conspiracy theorists claim secret treasure beneath Bruton Parish

Amanda J. Yasenchak

Editor-in-Chief

A group known as Sir Francis Bacon’s Sages of the Seventh Seal is advocating the exploration of the Bruton Parish Episcopal Church yard in Colonial Williamsburg. They allege the secret vault of Bacon, who was best known as an advocate of the Scientific Revolution, is buried there. The group believes the treasure to contain the original King James translation of the Bible, original versions of William Shakespeare’s plays and various mysterious Christian teachings, and that the collection has been moved from England to Jamestown to Williamsburg.

The group also believes that Bacon was the illegitimate son of Queen Elizabeth I of England and was thus heir to the English throne. The Baconists assert that he left hidden clues around Bruton Parish in the form of cryptograms, and that specific groups are trying to suppress the whereabouts of the vault – particularly the Skull & Bones secret society at Yale University and Colonial Williamsburg’s benefactors, the Rockefeller family.

The churchyard was excavated in 1992 using the Baconists’ own calculations, though the vault was not found. Today they seek a new excavation. Colonial Williamsburg has referred all inquiries concerning a new excavation to the church itself, which is a fully functioning parish. However, the church refuses to allow another dig.

Summer movies were wide range of hits and misses

Summer 2006 was an interesting season for movies. It was easily better than last year, which abounded with atrocious flicks. However, it would be difficult to call this summer a great one for the box office. There were some massive hits and some massive flops. Some were good and some were bad; but, isn't that what summer is about? Enjoying a movie that probably isn't going to win any Academy Awards in a cool theatre out of the summer sun? Here, *The Virginia Informer* gives a quick review of a few of this summer's movies, big and small.



Joe Pirro
Film Critic

The DaVinci Code Somehow, this movie managed to be boring. I'm not sure how it became such a mess, but an exciting book was made into a talky movie with a really weird-looking Tom Hanks. **C+**

A Prairie Home Companion Not only did this have the best cast of the year, including Meryl Streep, Lindsay Lohan, and John C. Reilly, but it's the best film of the year so far. Let's hope this gets remembered next year during award season. **A**

Cars Disney and Pixar did it again. While this isn't up to par with some of their bests, a mediocre Pixar movie is still better than just about anything else Hollywood can do. **A-**

The Devil Wears Prada This was one of the bigger surprises of the summer. I was entertained, which I didn't expect at all, and Meryl Streep was superb as the best villain of the summer. **B+**

Superman Returns Bryan Singer reinvigorated a franchise with a great cast and a decent storyline. The Messiah imagery was a bit much, but Kevin Spacey as Lex Luthor was absolutely genius. **A-**



The boys...err...cars of summer: Owen Wilson scored a bigger hit as racecar Lightning McQueen in Disney/Pixar's "Cars" alongside Larry the Cable Guy as Mater than he did in "You Me, and Dupree," which Pirro rated his worst of the summer.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest A fun sequel, but it didn't quite match up to the fun of the original. Johnny Depp was just as incredible as the first time, but the story did seem to drag a bit. **B**

You, Me, and Dupree This was easily one of the worst movies of the year. Unfunny and obnoxious, it took a funny star (Owen Wilson) and turned him into an annoying distraction. This was just plain awful. **D+**

Clerks II Kevin Smith created a sequel to his masterpiece that is just as good as the original. Not surprisingly it was crude, lewd, and vulgar. Surprisingly, it had a great message about growing up. It was the most touching movie to ever feature an act of bestiality. **B+**

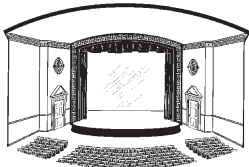
Scoop Could Woody Allen re-team with Scarlett Johansson and recreate the magic of last winter's *Match Point*? Unfortunately, the answer was no, but the result was still an amusing, if forgettable movie. **B-**

Miami Vice I'm still perplexed as to what was going on for most of the first half of this movie. However, what was a boring hour and a half was redeemed by an incredible climactic battle. **B-**

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby The team behind *Anchorman* couldn't muster up another very funny movie. While it did have its moments, *Talladega* just wasn't consistently funny like Will Ferrell's previous efforts. **C+**

So, summer winds to a close with some true winners and some horrible losers, but a season with a bad movie is better than one without a movie at all. Here's hoping for an excellent fall.

Be sure to check out "Cars" and "The Da Vinvi Code" at Screen on the Green on September 1.



Kimball Theatre

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

August/September Schedule

Live Performances

The Kimball Theatre and Virginia Premiere Theatre present
Winning Liberty Land: An American Musical
Comedy About How History is Made
Fri., Sept. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.
General admission \$12, Seniors/Students \$10

The Kimball Theatre presents
The Second City Touring Company
"Truth, Justice, or The American Way"
Fri., Sept. 8 and Sat., Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$25, Seniors/Students \$21

The Williamsburg Symphonia
Subscription Concert #1
Tues., Sept. 12 and Wed., Sept. 13 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$37, \$27

Picking Up Feathers
Written and Performed by Antonio Sacre
in collaboration with Jim Lasko
Thurs., Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
General admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$8

The Kimball Theatre presents
The Cambridge University
American Stage Tour production
Twelfth Night
by William Shakespeare
Mon., Sept. 18 at 8 p.m.
General admission \$10, Seniors/Students \$8

The College of William & Mary
Department of Music
Ewell Concert Series presents
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
With live accompaniment by Hesperus
Tues., Sept. 26 at 8 p.m.
This event is free but tickets are required

Classical and Historical Roots
Featuring Robert Lentz and Timothy Seaman
Wed., Sept. 27 at 6 and 8 p.m.
All seats \$7

Come to the
Kimball Theatre
on DoG Street!

Movies

Strangers With Candy (R)
Sat., Aug. 26-Thurs. Aug. 31
7:10 and 8:45 p.m.
Aug. 26-28, 30, 31 screening room (35 seats)

Wordplay (PG)
Fri., Sept. 1-Thurs., Sept. 7
7:15 and 9 p.m.
Sept. 1, 2, 4, 6 screening room (35 seats)

Who Killed the Electric Car? (PG)
Sun., Sept. 3-Mon., Sept. 11
Sept. 3-5 and Sept. 7-11 at 7 and 8:45 p.m.
Sept. 6 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a panel discussion
Sept. 3, 6, 7-10 screening room (35 seats)

The Great New Wonderful (R)
Sun., Sept. 10-Fri., Sept. 15
6:45 and 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 11-14 screening room (35 seats)

A Scanner Darkly (R)
Fri., Sept. 15-Mon., Sept. 25
7 and 9 p.m.
Sept. 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 screening room (35 seats)

The Proposition (R)
Tues., Sept. 19-Mon., Sept. 25
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Sept. 19, 21, 23, 25 screening room (35 seats)

Brick (R)
Thurs., Sept. 28-Wed., Oct. 4
6:45 and 8:45 p.m.
Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 2, 4 screening room (35 seats)

Did she go too far?

A debate on Ann Coulter's recent book, *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*

Coulter successfully conveys the absurdity of the political left

Brooks Amster

Staff Writer

Ann Coulter's *Godless: The Church Of Liberalism* is not a book that should be taken too seriously by any real conservative; it is not a handbook of conservative thought, and it does not offer any true insight into the twisted psychology of the American power-hungry, nihilistic, self-centered liberal that we all know and love. But this is not the book's purpose. While the book explicitly sets out to explain and illustrate how liberalism has all the elements of a religion and those who adhere to it do

abortion is nothing more than a means by which the state allows women to wantonly fornicate and not have to face the consequences; it increases woman's autonomy and freedom of choice, two intrinsic goods to liberals. While unfortunately this increase of freedom comes at the cost of 1.3 million lives per year – well, liberals just try not to talk about that.

Coulter illustrates the liberals' devotion to their belief in the goodness of human nature in their preference for criminals over their past and potential future victims. She offers several instances when liberal leaders lessened criminals' sentences or simply freed them in an effort to demonstrate their "compassion." Among them are mentioned Frederica A. Messiah Jackson, a federal district

court judge nominated by Clinton in 1997. Judge Jackson freed a man who raped a 10-year-old girl; the man used his newfound freedom not to re-assimilate as a rehabilitated man, but to rape a 9-year-old-girl. Another example is Michael Dukakis's efforts to furlough criminals during his presidential campaign against Bush the elder in 1988. Dukakis furloughed a first-

degree murderer, who never returned from his day out of jail and ended up being apprehended only after beating and repeatedly stabbing a man and raping his fiancée. Dukakis refused to apologize or speak to the victims.

The book is successful in its goal, which is without a doubt a simple one: to convey the absurdity of the political left in such a way that the average, sensible American may read it and be impacted by it. To anticipate anything else from the book is simply a misunderstanding of the book's intent.

My colleague also references the fact that Coulter's language is not meant to be taken seriously. While her quotes would seem utterly ridiculous to most sensible readers, this seems normal for Coulter and she leaves no reason to make any reader believe that she is not fully serious.

Coulter and Brooks also incorrectly seem to assume that every liberal is an insane hippie protestor who would like to assassinate President Bush. While certainly these people do exist in both real life and politics, they make up a minority of Democratic voters. While most Democratic voters support the same political ideas of these nutcases, they are able to rationally debate the issues and may even side with conservatives on some issues. By ostracizing this group of people, Coulter's book fails to meaningfully further political debate.

Coulter fails to offer new ideas, ruins own arguments with insults

Nick Hoelker

Staff Writer

It's a shame for Republicans that Ann Coulter does not have the ability to restrain herself from talking too much. In her latest book *Godless: The Church of Liberalism*, Coulter eloquently espouses a conservative agenda. Despite some holes in her arguments, they are so persuasive that they would force some liberals to consider conservative viewpoints on these issues. However, after making her points, Coulter finds it necessary to complete each point with an outrageous and unnecessary statement just for the sake of inflaming liberals such as calling Democrats "dangerous psychopaths," mentioning that all liberals love Stalin or saying that the Democrats' main political agenda is to destroy as much human life as possible. Seeing statements like these throughout the book ruin Coulter's arguments and can make the readers wonder who really is the "psychopath."

Another problem with *Godless* is that many arguments in the book are quite hypocritical. Conservatives love to discuss how the "liberal media" is very selective on which stories about Iraq they report, only telling about failures and ignoring successes. Coulter acts similarly in *Godless* when trying to debunk the liberal ideology. When trying to disprove evolution, Coulter cites obscure studies where researchers flubbed the results and treats mixed scientific evidence as absolute evidence that all of Darwin's ideas are false.

While discussing stem cell research, Coulter outlines all of the positive

scientific progress through the use of adult stem cells. When discussing embryonic stem cell research, Coulter fails to offer any valid reason why the research should not be conducted other than simply stating that it has yet to reveal any scientific advances, even though little research has been done on embryonic stem cells thus far.

Moreover, she discusses how liberals refuse to even debate the merits of liberal icons such as James Brady, Max Cleland and Cindy Sheehan. Coulter does have a valid point here, but when Coulter discuss conservative icons, such as Willie Horton's victims, Coulter assumes every claim they make is absolutely correct and accurate and never dares to question any of their testimony.

Lastly, while Coulter spends her book debunking the liberal ideology, she fails to offer any original ideas of her own. She devotes most of the last four chapters in her book citing mediocre examples of how Darwin theory is incorrect but fails to provide any reasonable explanations for alternative theories. Similarly when discussing the Valerie Plame affair, Coulter goes into great detail attacking Plame and her husband, Bush critic Joe Wilson. However, instead of defending someone in the White House's decision to leak Plame's name as a covert CIA to the press, Coulter barely mentions the leak and instead rambles on about the shortcomings in Plame's and Wilson's characters.

While Ann Coulter's *Godless* is fun to read and dabbles in some well-written ideas, Coulter's abrasive style, selective information choice and inability to only destroy liberal arguments and not bolster conservative ones ruins any chance of *Godless* actually helping to further political debate.

Brooks responds:

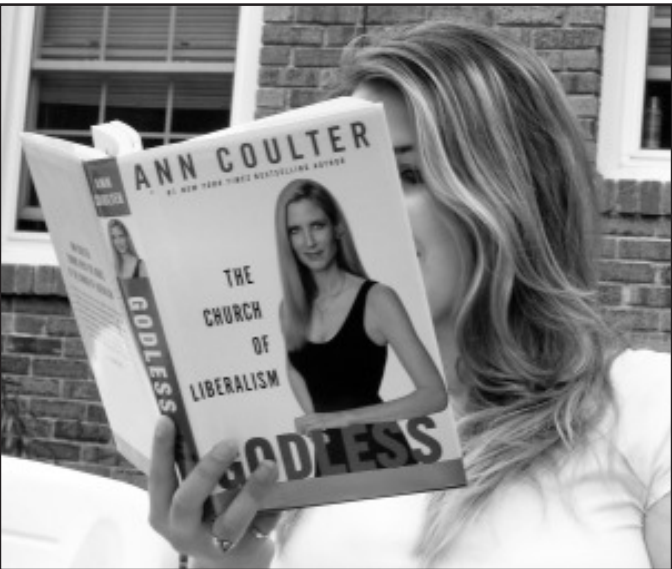
Coulter is not trying to convert anyone in this book and surely is not trying to make herself amiable to any of her opponents, as Nick has suggested. The fact that her points are both valid and compelling enough to convert someone is irrelevant, because that is not Coulter's purpose. The book is written to make the political left look silly; she still presents compelling facts and persuasive arguments like the ones Nick refers to.

I fail to see how doing detailed research on evolution in hopes of representing its flaws while being critical of the Liberal Media makes her a hypocrite. I also have a tough time seeing how Coulter's points are "obscure." Where she isn't referencing scientific research, Coulter gives an excellent logical breakdown of certain aspects of evolution (i.e. lack of evidence, "new species" theory, etc.). Where she *is* referencing scientific research, none of it appears to be inauthentic. In fact, Coulter goes into great detail about the efforts of such scientists to form compelling research that affects even affirmed evolutionists, such as with Behe's research.

Nick is simply wrong about Coulter's approach to embryonic stem cell research. In addition to the fact that Coulter doesn't believe the research to be a better alternative to adult stem cell research, Coulter has a very powerful ethical opposition to embryonic stem cell research. She refers to it as "the slaughter of life," "harvest and slaughter," and "cut[ting] up a living human embryo." Coulter mentions the scientific ineffectiveness of the research as part of her arguments against those who are involved in the research. It is her moral opposition that stands as the foundation for her criticism.

Also, none of Horton's victims have any "claims" that Nick claims Coulter is trying to push. They are victims, not politicians or activists of any kind. They didn't make claims; they were stabbed, beaten and raped.

Coulter is not writing a novel on political theory, nor is she writing to convert people to her side. The purpose of *Godless* is to categorize instances of apparent madness on the side of the political left and to satirically criticize them. To expect anything else from the book is a misunderstanding of her intent.



Joe Luppino-Espinoza

Good witch or bad bitch?: Controversy has surrounded Coulter's latest book.

so in a religious manner, it ends up more as Coulter's typical polemical work, deconstructing individual tenets of contemporary liberalism, rather than analyzing the "big picture," primarily by means of illustrating the absurdity of acts committed by the flock.

One of Coulter's better deconstructions concerns abortion. She does a great job of explaining how liberals have framed the abortion debate in terms of women's rights, rather than in terms of human life. The fact of the matter, Coulter argues, is that legalizing

Nick responds:

Like Coulter, my colleague relies on scattered, obscure examples to prove his points about crime. While the leniency cases of Judge Jackson and Governor Dukakis are certainly unacceptable, these situations are obviously outliers and not just restricted to Democrats. For example, Republican Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier who granted probation to a man who lured three children – as young as four years old – into his house with candy and then molested and raped them. Additionally, it was the Republican Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch who suggested that President Clinton nominate Ruth Bader Ginsburg for the Supreme Court, who of course has been the utmost defender of law and the Constitution.

THE VIRGINIA INFORMER

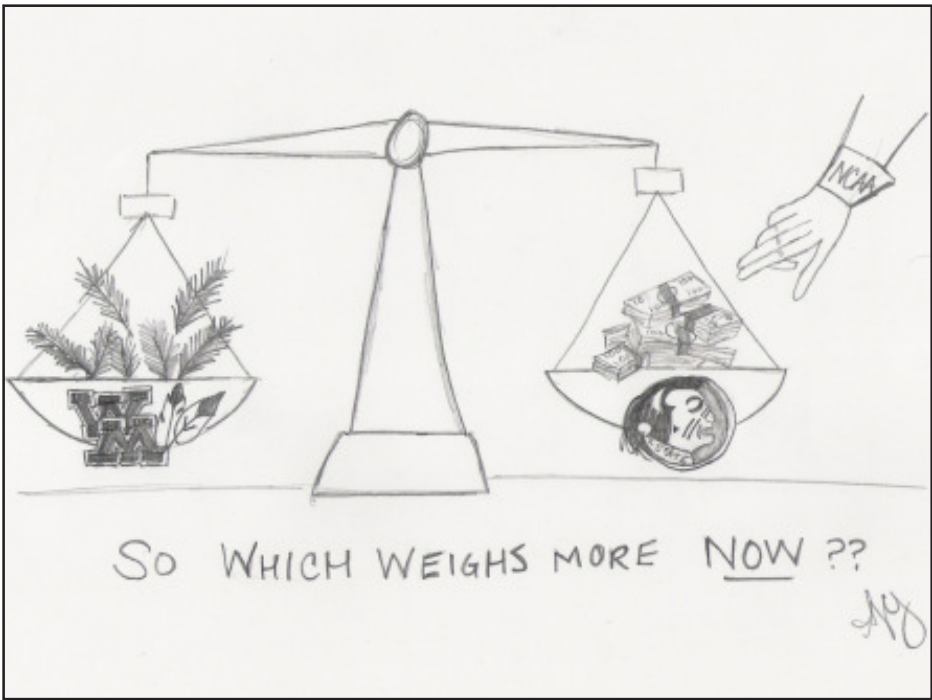
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Amanda J. Yasenchak

Staff Editorial:

What is a feather-loving Tribe to do?

A cross. A swastika. The five Olympic rings.

For most of us, these symbols conjure up thoughts beyond two simple perpendicular lines, the symbol of an early 20th century political party, and five connected circles. They suggest something much more. Few people look at a cross without associating it with Christianity. Few people look at a swastika without associating it with evil, hate, the Holocaust and World War II. Few people do not see the five Olympic rings as representing classical athletics and the best athletes in the world.

Some symbols, however, may not be so easy to identify. For example, if you asked five different people on the street what feathers symbolized to them, you might get five different answers—especially if the feathers in question of are the green and gold variety.

Would two green and gold feathers conjure up the terms “characteristic of an enemy...showing ill will...abusing...[and] scurrilous”? The answer is an emphatic “Yes” if you are talking to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Indeed, the two green and gold feathers poking out from behind the block letters “W” and “M” on our beloved athletic logo are just that, it says—in fact, not only do they represent and encompass fully the emotionally loaded adjectives listed above, but they are also “warlike,” “unfriendly” and “antagonistic,” not to mention “coarse and insulting” and “harshly scolding.”

And to whom, might you ask, are these two simple feathers insulting and scolding? According to the NCAA, it is the American Indians—a group who, we’re sure, will be pleased to find out that Florida State University can keep its man dressed as a Seminole warrior as its mascot, complete with feathers.

You, the student, should be angry about this ludicrous inconsistency in particular, and about the NCAA’s ridiculous policy in general. While the NCAA considers us to be offensive, insulting, and abusive, Florida State

University’s Seminoles get away scot-free.

Why are FSU’s feathers more acceptable than our own? The harsh reality is that because FSU can sweep in a large revenue in television and merchandising, their practices and usage of American Indian imagery is made acceptable—while William and Mary, with only an academic record to stand behind it, is left hung out to dry.

And exactly what sanctions can the NCAA impose on William and Mary? The resulting effect of the NCAA’s decision is that the College’s athletic teams can only participate in NCAA championships without the feathers on their uniforms, and that William and Mary will be prohibited from hosting NCAA championships as long as we retain our logo. Nothing more. The Tribe can continue to use its logo in all pre-season and regular season athletic contests without interference from the NCAA.

Two green and gold feathers being called “hostile and abusive” by an out-of-touch review board giving unsolicited opinions is, essentially, political correctness run amok. The College needs to hold on to its feathers. We should not give in. And so far, our administration has not let us down.

In a letter dated July 26, 2006, President Gene Nichol had this to say in response to the NCAA’s decision: “The NCAA claims to find the William and Mary logo in violation of organizational standards for two reasons. The first is a proffered definition of ‘hostile and abusive’—‘characteristic of an enemy, warlike, showing ill will... antagonistic... abusing... scurrilous, harshly scolding.’ **I submit, modestly but firmly, that no one who takes seriously the English language can conclude that the William and Mary logo meets that description** [emphasis added]. Second, the staff report...focuses on mascot caricatures of American Indians....It says little, or nothing, therefore, about William and Mary. We have no mascot and only a

feathered insignia.”

Richard A. Williamson, chancellor professor of law and coordinator of legal affairs for the College, also responded to the NCAA in a letter, citing specifically their egregious inconsistency concerning our logo compared with Florida State’s: “To date, we have received no explanation, let alone an intellectually honest one [about why the College’s feathers are] hostile and abusive...The staff committee...does not identify the precise stereotypical message conveyed by those feathers, let alone explain how or why that message is ‘hostile or abusive.’ The William and Mary community of students, staff and supporters is asked to accept this edict from the NCAA based on a process totally devoid of reason and replete with inconsistencies, however explained or justified, that renders the policy utterly incomprehensible and fundamentally unjust.”

The Virginia Informer applauds our president and faculty for giving an intellectually motivated and no-nonsense rejoinder to the NCAA in response to their decision. It is comforting to know that our current administration stands behind the many years of Tribe athletics adorned by our feathered logo. (The full text of both letters can be found in the news archives at www.wm.edu.)

We know our administration has responded properly. But what can the feather-loving Tribe student do to fight back?

1. **Wear the logo.** Don’t let faceless bureaucrats at the NCAA dictate how you support our teams. Students should continue to wear and purchase clothing that prominently displays our green and gold feathers, especially when they’re cheering on Tribe athletes. We must show the NCAA that our community is united in support of the heritage and history that our logo represents. If you don’t own any Tribewear, buy some. If you already do, buy more.

2. **Write your senators and congressmen.** For many of us, that means people in the Virginia congressional delegation. Tell them to support HR 5289, a bill—co-sponsored by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, among others—which blocks the NCAA from punishing schools like William and Mary simply because of their logo. Alumni like Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH), a member of the class of 1975, and Alan Mollohan (D-WV), a member of the class of 1966, should be lobbied as well.

3. **Speak out.** Write, fax, e-mail, post, blog, and, if necessary, shout your opposition to this ruling. We must speak out against this patently unjust and ludicrously unfair attempt by the NCAA to divert attention from the real problems that plague collegiate sports—like abysmal graduation rates, diploma mills, and rampant recruiting violations—by focusing on the non-issues of logos and nicknames. The College should mobilize its alumni base to defend our school against the NCAA.

This nonsensical and wholly ridiculous edict should be a wake-up call for all colleges and universities, but especially for us here at William and Mary. For a school that consistently fields teams that succeed both academically and athletically, William and Mary should receive accolades for our outstanding collegiate athletics—not sanctions.

In closing, Dr. David Yeagley, adjunct professor and published author from the University of Oklahoma College of Liberal Studies—and also a Comanche Indian—best stated the concept of American Indian pride in sports: “We have pre-reservation imagery of the warrior, the brave, the man that’s courageous, the man that lives for his people, the man that will sacrifice his life for his people.... And a mascot that calls to mind the kind of bravery that I spoke of, the kind of dedication to people, to one’s own people, I think this is admirable.” We agree.

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Do yourself (and the rest of us) a favor and have some fun

As we return to college we also return to obligations, both academic and extra-curricular. One particular obligation that is especially important is the one we have to our fellow students. Being a well-rounded individual is important and something that the College encourages in academics. Yet academics are not the



John R. Kennedy
Opinion Editor

only area where one must be well-rounded. Character is another, and students must make an effort to be more diplomatic with their peers in college.

At William and Mary—now this might be hard to believe—there are students that spend the vast majority of their time in their room or at the library. This is often necessary to get good grades. What some students forget is that it is also necessary to become a personable individual during your college experience. You cannot get a good job if you cannot interact well with your coworkers. Personal skills must be developed. Being a social recluse might be good for your grades, but there is much more to being a college student than just having good grades.

This is not to say that getting a good GPA is unnecessary, but a preoccupation with GPA should not lead you to deny yourself a social outlet of some kind.

The William and Mary administration could help its students become more well-rounded individuals by allowing more freedom in socializing. Some of the main avenues of socialization, such as Greek Life, student-run campus organizations and on and off campus parties, are undeniably undermined by the administration and Williamsburg community. They have their own reasons for doing this, but they clearly do not include “student welfare” in them. Students are better off when they are allowed to make life decisions without the buffer zone known as “the administrative parent” watching their every move.

William and Mary students are adults. They can vote (though not in Williamsburg), be drafted into the military and live by themselves. They are the consumers of William and Mary’s educational offerings, but all too often, it seems as though the administration does not realize this. Therefore, students must make an effort to socialize responsibly, while the administration should be less concerned with student affairs and more concerned with providing the services for which it has been paid.

What would you do?

Virginia public universities impeding on students’ right to self defense

Will Coggin

Staff Writer

Imagine the following situation: a fellow student, enraged upon finding that he is facing imminent suspension, comes onto campus and begins a shooting spree. Seeing him walking to his car to reload after killing three people, what would you do? Run, take cover, call the police? Or would you try to stop him?

This situation happened at Appalachian School of Law, in Grundy, Virginia in 2002. Two students who witnessed the events, instead of running for cover, retrieved their personal firearms, returned, and stopped the shooter from being able to murder anyone else. At William and Mary and other Virginia colleges, which have illogical and sweeping bans on guns, the opportunity for self defense should be granted.

Recent challenges by students and citizens to some public universities’ weapons policies stand to bring about changes that allow for some students and citizens to carry firearms on campus. The challenges come from students and non-students who have state-issued concealed handgun permits but are barred from carrying on campus by school policy. Recent activity by the Virginia Citizens Defense League, a gun rights group, has brought bills in the General Assembly that would force state higher education institutions to recognize weapons permits.

There’s a recent history to such challenges. In 2004, David Briggman, who lived near Harrisonburg and had a concealed weapons permit issued by the state of Virginia, sued James Madison University over its policy prohibiting students and citizens from carrying guns on campus. In 2005, VA Tech authorities arrested a student with a weapons permit who carried a gun to class. Although no laws were violated, the student faced disciplinary action in the university’s judicial system. In the Appalachian Law School case, the two students had to go off campus to retrieve their guns. It’s lucky that they were fortunate enough to have time to stop the killer. It begs the question: are these people the criminals, those who commit gun crimes? Clearly not, yet they are treated as if they are.

Gun violence is no stranger to William and Mary. Somehow, despite the College’s oh-so-powerful gun ban on paper, criminals still bring guns onto campus. Just this summer, a fugitive shot himself on campus following a flight from police. That’s not to mention the various documented cases of shady townies bringing guns onto campus. In fact, the one time a student did use a gun for self defense near campus, in 2004, he was expelled by the College. Logical, as always.

Under Virginia state law, residents and non-residents who pass a criminal background check, take a firearms safety course, and pay a fee are eligible

to obtain a permit through the court system. This profile- going to a courthouse to get a permit signed by a judge or clerk- isn’t exactly fitting of the profile of your average criminal. Indeed, studies have shown that permit holders commit crimes at a lower rate than the general populace. But at places such as William and Mary, the administrators have determined that these responsible citizens cannot be trusted.

College administrators incessantly tout that we have a “community of trust” and that there is “self-determination” for all students, somehow maintaining a straight face. Yet the College fails to abide by its own goals and promises. A community of trust and self determination entitles those students who see it fit to carry a gun for self-defense to do so, and for others to respect that personal decision. The College’s blanket ban on guns is no help to anyone- anyone but the criminals, that is. There is no good reason for William and Mary to continue to recklessly limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their rights. One can only hope that the administration will wake up and smell reality- until then, we have the good work of VCDL to thank.

Will Coggin is an officer in the League of Shooting Gentleman at William and Mary.

Drugs, booze and ideas

Jacob Hill

Staff Writer

A popular catechism is that college is a time for “experimentation.” While some truth exists to this claim, the blatant universalization of the saying creates a dangerous atmosphere of permissiveness. Certainly it is a time to experiment with new points of view, to consider new ideas, and challenge norms. However, this does not mean that all points of view are equal, that all new ideas are right, or that to challenge a norm means to violate it. It becomes an intellectual process, yet it is often misunderstood as an empirical one.

To give moral reasons for their own delinquency, many students mouth the platitude that only by trying something does knowledge become available. Heavy drinking, drugs, and other such poor behavior is excused by means of getting to “really know what it’s all about.” But if this were true, then man would have stagnated at the invention of the wheel, constantly having to try new designs while redoing the old ones to “really know.” Maybe today a square wheel would work, or a triangle, and maybe the circle only works on Sundays. Such reasoning would leave us all starving and dead if actually followed throughout life, but it is just this kind of reasoning that many students idiotically call upon. The peer who calls such things wrong, that is to call a spade a spade, is thrown out faster than Ted Kennedy’s car at Chappaquiddick.

The truth is that experimentation involves taking classes

in subjects a person may be unfamiliar with, joining positive organizations, or even attempting some productive task a person may have felt previously impossible. These activities expose people to ideas, and it is ideas which are the key. Only through ideas does a person come to know right from wrong, real from fake, truth from falsity. Ideas separate the man from the barbarian.

“Perhaps the greatest experiment we could try this year is to abandon the catechism altogether, and try something more positive.”

The booze-busting blockhead and the whim-worshipping hooligan behave animalistically. Their form of experimentation is no greater than what a dog can do, and often less. Yet to hail the dog as a know-all genius is absurd. These individuals of low self-esteem are not seeking knowledge, but escape. Escape from responsibility, from rationality, from anything that could make them feel guilty for their actions. They often

operate in groups, attempting to psychologically allay their guilt. However, they can never escape from the fact that they are responsible for their actions. Thus, their so-called experimentation gives them nothing, especially not knowledge.

As the college year begins, it is a time not to reflect upon past decisions, but upon future ones. Likely, a person will run into several opportunities for both positive and negative decisions. Often, the good choice will be harder, take longer, and require more thought than the bad one. Attempting to cover up one’s actions through a silly catechism displays a grave ignorance. Perhaps the greatest experiment we could try this year is to abandon the catechism altogether, and try something more positive.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY: Officers poised to start 06-07 school year

continued from page three

the NCAA. The decision to ban the William and Mary logo because of its allegedly hostile and abusive nature is already beginning to meet with outrage from students. Calling the decision “ridiculous” and “preposterous,” President Scofield expressed puzzlement at the NCAA ruling.

The SA is internally split on this issue, with some taking a more defensive wait-and-see approach, while others are advocating defiance of a widely condemned and unpopular diktat from the NCAA. President Scofield, speaking on behalf of himself and Vice President Norris, said, “We will gauge the situation when we get back to campus.”

The Senate plans to take a more active role in a Student Assembly that is often dominated by the executive branch. Senator Victor Sulkowski ('07) has worked diligently this summer on his proposal for Wawa to accept Flex Points. Sulkowski has met with the head of Dining Services, Phil DiBenedetto and others in Auxiliary Services to present his case. They agreed to set up a meeting with Wawa corporate which is planned to take place during the opening of the fall semester. One stumbling block that stands in the way of an agreement is that

William and Mary takes 20% to 25% of the revenue from businesses that accept Flex Points.

Sulkowski gave high praise to DiBenedetto and the others he is working with, calling them “very enthusiastic and extremely helpful and friendly to work with.” If the meeting with Wawa is productive, he plans to suggest a trial period beginning first semester and hopes to have it fully operational by second semester.

The Undergraduate Council typically focuses most of its attention on planning social events, but a proposal by Vice-President for Advocacy Bradley Potter ('08) to halve the number of senators has sparked tension within the SA. Potter circulated his plan to a number of people in SA, including senators and members of the executive branch. When contacted about his plan, Potter argued that the Senate had a stigma as an ineffectual body which needed to do some soul searching. Citing historical precedent as prior to 2003 the Senate had only twelve members, Potter said he “wanted to start a dialogue to make the Senate a better body.”

Senator Matt Beato ('09) sharply criticized Potter's proposal. He argues



Ian R. Whiteside

Drop by office hours: The SA's headquarters have moved from the Campus Center to the Commuter Student House on Jamestown Road.

that the Senate accurately represents the student body; Beato said “decreasing the number of senators would decrease both the diversity and effectiveness of the senate.” Senator Sulkowski said he was generally in favor of Potter's proposal and is interested to discuss it further within the SA. Any constitutional amendment designed to change the operation of the student government would require seventeen votes in the current Senate, a prospect that Beato said was extremely unlikely to pass.

The Executive branch, led by President Scofield and Vice President Norris,

opens its unprecedented second term with plans to expand its popular micro-initiatives. Plans to increase the availability of blue books and to work with the athletic department to bring back a mascot represent Scofield's approach to focusing on smaller issues that directly impact student quality of life. He also pledged to “co-host a more involved 9/11 memorial than in years past due to this being the 5th anniversary of the tragedy,” and again highlighted the importance he places on holding regular office hours.

Did you miss our New Student issue?

This article was printed in it - but we think it's important enough for everyone to read.

Fire when ready: College quietly drops water gun ban

Alex “Randy” Kyrios

Staff Writer

Over the summer, the so-called “Aquatic Weapons Ban” was quietly conceded by Vice President of Student Affairs Sam Sadler. This was a handbook-mandated rule against toy guns (including water guns) and prevented their presence and use on campus.

The Aquatic Weapons Ban was rooted in a more sensible ban on lookalike weapons. Last spring, a replica grenade led to an evacuation of Old Dominion Hall, lending some credibility to the actual rule. A wide interpretation of this statute blocked waterguns, and occasionally Nerf weapons. Enforcement was partial, however. Skiffy, the science fiction/fantasy club on campus, holds regular Nerf-gun fights in academic buildings, and last year, some Dupont Hall residents engaged in an Assassins game with Nerf weapons without trouble. This didn't prevent the Aquatic Weapons Ban from being an issue. Student government candidates, especially those running for Senate, often made its repeal a central campaign issue.

In the spring of 2005, student opposition to the ban finally took a concrete form. A group of the ban's critics successfully collected enough signatures to include a referendum question, seeking to gauge student opinion on the issue, to be included in that year's Student Assembly general elections. In that referendum, 67 percent of responding students voiced their disapproval. In response, the issue came before the SA Senate on April 13, shortly after the elections. The Senate narrowly defeated a proposal to issue an opinion against the ban, and the *status quo* was maintained. This occurred at the last meeting of the 312th Senate's meeting; the new Senate convened the very next week.

The Senate's failure to act resulted in the creation of

a Facebook group — “Drop the Aquatic Weapons Ban on Campus” — by Kyle West ('07), a critic of the policy. It included contact information for the new senators and encouraged students to contact them in opposition to the ban. At the time of writing, the group had 67 members.



Fire at will: W&M students now run the risk of getting soaked with the return of legal water guns to campus.

The new 313th Senate faced the issue again in October. Senators Joe Luppino-Esposito ('08) and Shariff Tanious ('08) co-sponsored an opinion bill in criticism of the ban and the previous Senate's handling of the results of the student referendum. The bill gained the support of a dozen senators overall. Two

graduate senators, as well as then-Senate Chairman Luther Lowe ('06) opposed the bill, and five more abstained. This majority was enough to pass the opinion bill. The success of the bill was praised afterward by Senator Greg Teich ('07), who called it “ridiculous” given students' “reasonable judgment” on the matter. No further action was taken for the remainder of that school year.

It appeared through the summer that no actual change would be made, and the possibility of the 314th Senate tackling the issue over again was a very real one. *The Virginia Informer* contacted campus police and a secretary at Student Affairs, neither of which had heard of any change, despite rumors. Finally, in an email to *The Informer*, Vice President Sadler declared that the rule, whose intention was to keep away lookalike guns, had been incorrectly interpreted to include guns which are obviously toys — such as most water guns. He added, however, that “[s]tudents who mis-use ‘aquatic weapons’ ...where damage to property or safety issues result, will still be subject to judicial sanction - not because they possessed the water gun but because of the way it was used.” He pledged to communicate the update to the student body and indicate the SA efforts as the impetus.

Student reaction to the news has been positive. Senator Matt Beato ('09), who voted for the opinion bill in last year's Senate, said the change renders college policy “more reasonable and trusting of students.” Walter McClean and Zach Pilchen two other sophomore senators, recently elected to the 314th, also expressed their approval of the change. Sophomore class president Kevin Dua was also happy, joking, “Hopefully nobody puts out an eye with these water guns, or sprays a random professor or tourist.”

Editor's Note: Senator Joe Luppino-Esposito is the Assistant Editor in Chief of The Virginia Informer.